

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-74 (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol in an amount that enhances milk component production.

supplying the sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 75 wherein supplying the sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:

protecting the sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

79. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed the comprises sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol, or any combination thereof; and

supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof in an amount effective to enhance milk component product by the ruminant.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 79 wherein supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:

protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

83. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~a sugar alcohol~~;

supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount that supplies a nutritional effect to the ruminant, supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any

combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83 wherein protecting sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof, ~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production includes enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the

weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

92-114 (Cancelled)

115. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol ~~a sugar alcohol~~;

supplying the sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant in an

amount effective to enhance milk component production, supplying the

sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ from significant alteration in the rumen of the

ruminant, wherein protecting the sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ from significant

alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight

percent of the sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

116. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol ~~sugar-alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

123-138 (Cancelled)

139. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol including ~~is allitol, altritol,~~
~~dulcitol, erythritol, galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol,~~
~~maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol,~~ sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol,
or any of these in any combination; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount ~~the~~
~~sugar alcohol~~ effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in
milk produced by the ruminant.

140-141 (Cancelled)

142. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol ~~sugar~~
~~alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ to
the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~ from alteration in
the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol
~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol ~~sugar alcohol~~,
in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

143. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

144. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~ that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof ~~sugar alcohol~~, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

145. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount ~~the~~
~~sugar alcohol~~ effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in
milk produced by the ruminant.

146. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

147. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

148. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

149. (Cancelled)

150. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested

by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

151. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

152. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 149 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

153. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount ,the
~~sugar alcohol~~ effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in
milk produced by the ruminant.

154. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is

orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

155. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

157. (Cancelled)

158. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

159. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

160. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 157 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

161. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol ~~being allitol,~~
~~altritol, dulcitol, erythritol, galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt,~~
~~lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol,~~
~~or any of these in any combination;~~ and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the
ruminant.

162-163 (Cancelled)

164. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested

by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

165. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

166. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant. .

167. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the
ruminant.

168. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested

by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

169. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

170. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

171. (Cancelled)

172. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

173. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

174. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 171 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

175. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the
ruminant.

176. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

177. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

178. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

179. (Cancelled)

180. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

181. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

182. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 179 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

183. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol being
ruminally-protected ~~xylite being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol;~~
~~galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol,~~
~~perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol;~~ and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by
the ruminant.

184-185 (Cancelled)

186. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

187. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

188. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

189. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the
ruminant.

190. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

191. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

192. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

193. (Cancelled)

194. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

195. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

196. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 193 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

197. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the
ruminant.

198. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

199. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

200. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

201. (Cancelled)

202. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

203. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

204. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 201 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is

orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

205. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol ~~being allitol,
altritol, dulcitol, erythritol, galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt,
lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol,
xylitol, or any of these in any combination;~~ and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids protein in milk
produced by the ruminant.

206-207 (Cancelled)

208. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

209. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

210. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

211. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by
the ruminant.

212. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

213. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

214. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

215. (Cancelled)

216. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

217. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

218. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is

orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

219. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by
the ruminant.

220. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

221. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

222. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is

orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

223. (Cancelled)

224. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

225. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

226. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 223 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

227. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol ~~being allitol, altritol, dulcitol, erythritol, galaxitol, glucitol, iditol, inositol, isomalt, lactitol, maltitol, mannitol, perseitol, rhamnitol, threitol, sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol, or any of these in any combination;~~ and supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

228-229. (Cancelled)

230. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

231. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

232. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the

method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

233. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose fat, total
solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the
ruminant.

234. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

235. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

236. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

237. (Cancelled)

238. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

239. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

240. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is

orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

241. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being
ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol
effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose fat, total
solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the
ruminant.

242. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

243. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

244. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the

ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

245. (Cancelled)

246. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

247. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

248. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

249. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

250. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

251. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

252. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

253. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

254. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

255. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

256. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

257. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

258. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

259. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

260. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

261. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

262. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.